

# JMG NEWS

Jobs for Montana's Graduates



## Spotlight on the Specialist



In each upcoming edition of the JMG newsletter we would like to spotlight a JMG Specialist that is doing some extraordinary activities in their JMG classroom. This month we are spotlighting **Mary Machart** and her JMG class at **Culbertson High School**.

**Congratulations Mary for a job well done!**

## Culbertson JMG Holds A Mock Election

Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> marked the two week countdown to the Elections. In Culbertson, it was election night! Middle School and High School students had been preparing to be a part of the National Student/Parent Mock Election through their JMG class with Specialist Mary Machart.

In the weeks before the election, students studied a variety of topics centered on the election process. The ballots were taken from the National Student/Parent Mock Election Web site, designed specifically for the state of Montana. On hand that night, helping to create awareness and encourage people to vote, were John Brenden and Julie French. The students were excited to meet them as they had designed a bulletin board in class and posted the flyers for various candidates in the state. The election was held during Parent/Teacher conferences and many of the parents enjoyed the opportunity to visit with the candidates in person.

In addition to making signs to promote their candidates and the Mock Election, 8th grader Ty Handy volunteered and made three polling booths to bring the election to life. One hundred and eighteen people registered and voted that night. For those who weren't quite sure who they wanted to cast their vote for in the Presidential Election, lap tops were set up with an on-line game. The game provided various statements and the player would select the one they agreed with the most. At the end of the game it would list the results and show which of the two candidates they matched up with the best!

The goal of the National Student/Parent Mock Election is "to turn the sense of powerlessness that keeps young Americans and their parents from going to the polls into a sense of the power of participation in our democracy. One of the most important ways to increase students' sense of significance- and power- is to use the Mock Election to take them out of the classroom and into the real world". -NSPME web site.

The next day, the students tallied the ballots in class and posted results of the election in the school and community. John McCain was the winner in the Presidential Election. The last question on the ballot offered choices of former presidents and the opportunity to choose one to come back and run the country if miracles were possible. The winner was John F. Kennedy!!!



(Above) John Brenden and Julie French stop by to help with the JMG Mock Election in Culbertson. Levi Haren is in the background getting ready to sign voters in!



(Left) Lee Damm, Landon Bidegaray and Levi Haren help some Elementary students register to vote in the National Student Parent Mock Election in Culbertson.



(Right) Micah Hodges, Culbertson MCA Vice-President, interviews local candidate Julie French, (running for state house of Rep) during the JMG National Student - Parent Mock Election.



## Students tally up the votes!



## Holiday Happenings



Culbertson JMG Students deliver 27 Christmas gift boxes to the drop off center for Samaritans Purse in Wolf Point. The boxes will be shipped to one of 90 different countries. Earlier in the year, the students made lists; one of all the items they received for Christmas last year, another of what they want this year. Surprisingly, Santa then popped in for a visit with gifts for each student. Following his visit, they watched a video about the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Project. Seeing underprivileged children open shoeboxes filled with gifts overwhelmed them and surprised many of the students. It didn't take much time for each of the students to realize that no matter how tough they may have it, there are lots of children out there who are a lot worse off than they are. While holding back tears, many of the students asked if they could pack two boxes.

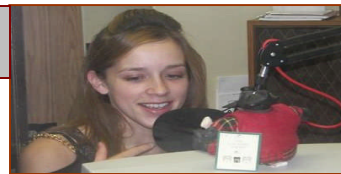
Those helping to deliver the boxes were 7th grader Christian Damm, Freshman Chelbi Brugh, Seniors Andrea Damm and Erica Aakre.

## PSA Announcements

Students from Culbertson Jobs for Montana's Graduates class traveled to Wolf Point last week to record public service announcements (PSA) for the Suicide Prevention Organization with Sheryl Shanks. Those participating were Casey Palmer, Kellie Emerson, Kaycee Menz and Katie Reid.

Carol Hackely showed the students around the station and explained how the equipment worked. After the students prepared the ads with information obtained from Mrs. Shanks, they each took a turn recording and even tried to do one together.

Cont.→



The announcements hope to reach student peers and others who may be having suicidal thoughts.

This activity covered many JMG competencies including; developing a healthy self-concept for home, school and work; communicate in writing and verbally; deliver presentations to a group, follow directions, practice effective human relations and much more.

Following this experience, Culbertson students began to brainstorm about other ways they could help with suicide prevention.

The PSA's are now being broadcast on KVCK 92.7.



Way to make a difference  
Culbertson  
JMG!



## REMINDERS

### *"If it is not documented it did not happen"*

There is a **February 20<sup>th</sup>** deadline for the following items for High School & Middle School programs:

- ✓ Model services entered
- ✓ Follow-up on 2008 high school graduates entered
- ✓ Middle School-check on students that transitioned to 9<sup>th</sup>

We know you are very busy but please find time to input your student information. We are more than willing to help so contact us if you need assistance.



(Left) Members of Culbertson JMG and the CHS basketball "C" squad team had their hands busy before a big game on Friday...they took on the task of building gingerbread houses!!! (Notice how well they took care of their ties!)

### ~Upcoming Training~

JMG Winter Training for High School Specialist's  
Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, Great Falls



Send your classroom stories & photos for the next edition of the JMG Newsletter!

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